[6th July 1962

Term of Municipal Councillors

*101 Q.—Sri T. V. DEVARAJA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the term of Municipal Councillors from three years to five years; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

The Hon. Sri S. M. A. MAJID: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Sri K. KAMALAKANNAN: Is there any proposal to extend the term of Members of the Corporation from three to five years?

The Hon. Sri S. M. A. MAJID: The proposal relates both to the municipalities and the Corporation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO FAILURE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND POWER-CUT.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 42 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I seek your previous permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the precarious and critical supply position of electric power in the State and the consequent imposition of heavy cut even in respect of essential services and the imperative and immediate necessity to take remedial measures to retrieve the position with a view to avoid heavy shortfall in production and also retrenchment and lay off of workers and the scarcity of essential food articles. The present precarious position of supply of electric power highlights the pitfall of the main dependence on hydro-electric schemes. It is, therefore, necessary to take immediate steps for the generation of electric power through the thermal stations by the use of steam and diesel and also by the establishment of an atomic power station. It is also necessary to encourage private enterprise in the matter of installation of generators in order to augment the supply.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the reservoirs in the Nilgiris and at Periyar which account for the bulk of the generating capacity depend for their inflows mainly on the South-West Monsoon. The South West Monsoon normally sets in in most of the catchment areas by the first week of June every year. In fact, last year the monsoon had set in during the last week of May itself. Even during the years of the late setting in of the monsoon, it materialised by the third week of June at least in